RSG

resistance shall grow

LONDON COMMITTEE OF 100 / no2 / 1s 0d

POINTS OF INFORMATION.

LONDON COMMITTEE OF 100. Monthly meeting, Sunday July 23rd at 2.30pm at the Lucas Arms, 245a Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.1. - Weekly Working Group meetings every Wednesday, at 7.30pm at 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1. Members and non - members welcome at both meetings. - - Way Ahead Conference planned for September, probably 23rd and 24th. Further details later but please keep these dates free. Part of the conference will discuss the special problems of the London Committee; the other part will deal with the peace movement in general.- - Jumble Sale to help funds, probably August 19th. Please keep this date free and let us have as much jumble as possible. -- Autumn mobilisation for Peace, Saturday and Sunday, October 21st and 22nd. See article in this issue. Further details from 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF 100. Meeting in Hampstead, London, September 8th and 9th. Further details from 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4.----Summer School at Aylesmore Farm, Shipston On Stour, War., (by courtesy of Howard and Margaret Cheney), from July 29th to August 5th. Registration Fee, 10/-., Total cost, £3. Details from John and April Marjoram, 47 St Albans Road, Leicester.

HIROSHIMA DAY - August 6th. Half-hour vigil at Cenotaph from 12.0 noon (small bunches of flowers will be provided to be placed on the Cenotaph at 12.30pm.) At 12.30pm, move on to Parliament Square for an eat-out. We must have a hope for the future and we intend to express our hopes with folk-song and food on the grass in front of Parliament. Bring your own refreshments. At 1.0pm, delegates will call at the offices of all the nuclear countries and represent the case for disarmament. For Britain, a DEMAND for unilateralism will be affixed to the doors of Parliament. The eat-out will continue for as long as people want to eat out.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS - DIALECTICS OF LIBERATION. A unique gathering to demystify human violence in all its forms, the social systems from which it emanates and to explore new forms of action. The Round House, Chalk Farm, London, N.W.3. From Saturday July 15th to Saturday July 29th. Details from the Institute of Phenomenological Studies, the Round House, N.W.1.

WRI - PPU Work - Study Camp at Loughborough, Leicestershire, from August 27th to September 15th. The manual work will consist mainly of decoration and minor structural alterations, but also work in the garden which is going to be transformed into a playground. The theme of discussion is "Militarism and Resistance to its structure." For application forms write to Peace Pledge Union, 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!

The London Committee of 100 is in serious danger of closing down unless it gets more money. This is not a scare tactic. The situation is really serious. The Cttee is facing its most serious financial crisis for a long time. Some people have already responded, thanks to the courtesy of Peace News in giving us publicity and in response to circulars that the Secretary and Treasurer have sent out. But we need very much more if we are to pay our debts (over £600) send out a regular mailing (£9 a time) appoint a new Secretary and keep the office going (this takes about £20 a week) and be able to carry on other activity. WE NEED A REGULAR INCOME. Will you make out a Bankers Order to our bank, Barclays Bank Ltd, 254 Seven Sisters Road, London, N.4., as this is a regular source of income? If you can't do this please send whatever you can as soon as you can. We need urgent help now, but we also need a regular income if we are to survive. Send now, to London Committee of 100, 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4.

May we take this opportunity of thanking those who have already responded. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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THE MONTH.

ADEN.

The British Government has decided to give "independence" to South Arabia on January 9th next year. But for six months following "independence" the Government is going to base a strong naval force in South Arabian waters and this would include an "attack carrier". Britain is also prepared to keep a force of V - bombers within easy range of South Arabia for the "critical six months after independence". It will be stationed on the island of Masirah. The V - bombers will be available for the six month period of the naval force and for as long thereafter as the British Government may determine, according to a Government spokesman in the House of Commons recently. It apparently depends entirely on the "circumstances ruling at the time." George Brown, Foreign Secretary, said in the House on June 20th, that "these measures are designed to ensure the security of the independent state against external aggression and I am confident that they will add greatly to the achievement of that object." The Government had already committed itself to spending £50 millions a year for three years after "independence" but this would now be raised by about £9 millions or £10 millions a year.

Mr Edward Heath, leader of the Opposition, declared in the House of Commons on June 19th that George Brown's statement showed a "radical change of policy" but the Opposition welcomed this change. We're not surprised!

DETECTIVE FINED FOR ASSAULT.

A man arrested on suspicion of offences under the Drugs Act was violently assaulted by a Detective Sergeant when he refused to make a statement. This was revealed at Colchester Magistrates Court on June 19th when Detective Sergeant Bertram John Igo was fined £50 for assaulting Richard Searle, occasioning him actual bodily harm. He pleaded guilty.

It was alleged that on April 14th, policemen went to Searle's home with a search warrant. Searle was arrested on suspicion of possessing dangerous drugs. On the way to the police station Igo said:"We've got you by the short and curlies; you might as well tell us all about it." When Searle laughed Igo slapped him across the face. At the police station Igo struck him again, grabbed him by the hair, hit him in the stomach, and banged his head on the wall and floor. Searle became unconscious and had to be taken to hospital. The Cousel appearing for Igo stated that although the latter pleaded guilty he admitted striking Searle only once. Igo had been working long hours and had become irritable.

NEW POLICE POWERS.

The Government intends to give the police powers to search without a warrant, anyone they suspect of unlawfully possessing drugs. The power is to be written into the Dangerous Drugs Bill at Committee stage. Lord Stonham, Under - Secretary at the Home Office, moving the Second Reading of the Bill in the House of Lords on June 20th, said he hoped the Amendment would have full support. "We mean to stop the pushers and pedlars of drugs by all means in our power, and we look confidently for support in the measures which we will introduce to do this", he said.

The drug situation had got worse over the last twelve months, according to Lord Stonham. He estimated that there would be 11,000 Heroin addicts in Britain by 1972. Amphetamine, Cannabis and L.S.D., which, again according to Lord Stonham could cause madness were an increasing menace. His Lordship ended by saying that youngsters were copying the unhappy example of their pop idols!

THE LOUD SILENCE.

(Whilst dealing with Porton and the Germ and Chemical Warfare Establishment, * it may interest readers to know that a group of young people in South - East London have discovered what appears to be a similar place there. They recently distributed the following leaflet in Woolwich.)

People of Woolwich; what is going on within your borough that nobody will name and nobody can see? What is it that has guards on the gate, patrolling dogs, an eight - feet high electrified and barbed wire fence? What is it that by the very shroud of silence and mystery surrounding it, shouts aloud its guilt and shame?

At Ha Ha Road, Woolwich Common, just a 4d ride from the centre of Woolwich, is a small block of buildings enclosed inside a barbed wire topped fence, with uniformed guards at the gate. A notice inside informs us that this is a CW (Chemical Warfare) establishment. Both the guards and the workers there have refused to say anything about the place, saying they are sworn to secrecy under the Official Secrets Acts. It is we, the people, with our taxes, who pay for the building and maintenance of such places. Why doesn't the Government want us to know what is going on in our name?

If this is a Chemical Warfare Establishment, then it is a danger to the people of Woolwich. At a similar establishment (Porton, Wilts) in 1962, a scientist, Mr G, A. Bacon, died mysteriously of bubonic plague (Black Death). Deadly nerve gases are tested near highly populated areas, and poisons are manufactured, so powerful that 8½ ounces of them could kill the world. If this is happening in Woolwich, it affects you!

Chemical and germ warfare agents are being tested all over the world. The power-mad politicians and generals use science, which should benefit mankind for their own perverted ends. They are trying to keep their preparations for world war III secret from the people, a war that would destroy us all. We must act to prevent war, we must uncouver their secrets and publish them for all the world to see.

(After giving details of a march and public meeting that they held that day, these young people, who are members of Lee and Lewisham Anarchists, give their names and addresses. They are Dave Biggs, Terry Liddle and Mike Malet.

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* See Page 11.

GENOCIDE SQUARE.

On Sunday 2nd July, several hundred people made their way to Grosvenor Square, London, at 6 o'clock in the evening for a demonstration at which Grosvenor Square (where the American Embassy is situated) was to be re-named GENOCIDE SQUARE, as a protest at the policy of Genocide being carried out by the U.S.Government in Vietnam. For over one hour there was a constant moving picket round the Square, many people carrying posters that were an exact replica of a City of Westminster street nameplate but bearing the name GENOCIDE SQUARE instead of Grosvenor Square. An attempt to hold a public assembly was thwarted by the police, who kept the demonstrators constantly on the move, not letting them stop for a second. The marchers were also made to march on the pavement and this inevitably caused bunching and caused some people to be pushed on to the road. As soon as this took place the people concerned were arrested and, in some cases, quite brutally. 18 were arrested altogether. The press publicity the next day was excellent but a statement that appeared in "The Times" was inaccurate. It stated that the original

plans for the demonstration had been cancelled because the police would not allow them. This is quite untrue. The plans were modified, not changed, and this was done one week before the police were even brought into the matter. Originally, the idea was to ask people to bring ladders and pots of paint to cover over the official nameplates, but this was felt to be impractical and likely to lead to violence and so the plans were modified to make for a better demonstration. It was a week later that the police, getting hold of one of the original leaflets issued a statement that this would not be allowed and stated that they would hold the Secretary of the London Committee personally responsible for any law - breaking. It is doubtful if they could have got away with such high-handedness anyway. As it happens, by modifying the plans, the demonstration was a great success and we must now go ahead with a march on Genocide Square from all parts of London. Maybe this can be linked up with the Autumn mobilisation, (see article in this issue), planned for October.

VIETNAM WEEK.

The British Council For Peace In Vietnam held a Vietnam Week which included a lobby of Parliament and a march through Central London. The lobby of parliament was a flop and showed the futility of lobbying M.P's. Those who supported the war in Vietnam didn't want to know and those that opposed it were not going to cut their throats anyway. A seat in Parliament and £1750 a year are too much to give up. Conscience must take second place. The "left-wing" of the Labour Party is not a left wing at all.

The march from Trafalgar Square to Hyde Park was very successful and had about 10,000 in its ranks, one of the biggest marches for many years. There were about 20 speakers in Hyde Park, all putting the case against American aggression in Vietnam and against British support for that war. This was indeed a successful demonstration.

RICHMOND FAST.

From June 20th to 23rd a Navy Recruiting Ship was anchored off Richmond(Surrey) Pier, in the River Thames. Pete Polish, a supporter of the Committee of 100, held a one-man, three-day, fast, on the pier as a protest against this recruiting for the navy. He also gave out copies of the Hampstead Committee of 100 Forces leaflet. We gather that the response from the public to the recruiting plea from the navy. Congratulations to the young people of Richmond and to Pete Polish.

SAVE GREECE DEFENCE FUND. Money is still urgently needed for the defence of the people arrested at the Greek Embassy and due to appear shortly at the Old Bailey. Please send your donations to Sue Abrahams, Save Greece Now,c/o, 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4.

SIMON DEFENCE FUND. The Simon Community have won their court case (see Page 21) but money is needed to pay for their defence. Send your donations to Alan Harrison, Simon Defence Fund, 129 Malden Road, London, N.W.5.

Read RESISTANCE, magazine of the National Committee of 100. No 2 issue now out. 1/- per copy (1/3d by post) (6/- for 6 issues post free) from Birmingham Peace Action Centre, Factory Road, Birmingham, 19.

RSG (RESISTANCE SHALL GROW). Monthly magazine of the London Committee of 100 -- No2 ----Vol 1 ----July 1967.

There are disturbing reports from Washington that President Johnson is being urged to make a formal declaration of war against North Vietnam as a prelude to an American military invasion of that country.

Such a step will surely have dire consequences for world peace. Even as things are the cruelty, the suffering, and the moral corruption stemming from the American aggression in Vietnam is a monstrous affront to the decent instincts of mankind. Not least it is slowly destroying the remants of the moral authority of the United Nations as a peace-keeping body. Recent events in the Middle East show how little respect either side of the Arab-Israel conflict have for UNO and emphasize the terrible urgency of stopping the U.S. aggression before other parts of the world become the fulcrum of further conflict and suffering. The situation calls for a wholly new effort by the forces for peace, and in Britain especially we have an imperative duty to cease allying ourselves with the American aggression. In the wake of the brilliantly successful Spring Mobilization in New York last April mounted by the rppidly growing U.S. peace movement, we call now for our own.

AUTUMN PEACE MOBILIZATION

Saturday, September 23rd - Doorstep to doorstep March to stop World War III. We ask each person to march from his own doorstep in every part of Britain to Harold Wilson's doorstep. Each marcher will be responsible for previously leafleting his own street or neighbourhood and is urged to carry a sign or banner. We shall have a monster picnic in Whitehall and have a rave party for peace against the dogs of war. We understand International Times may be arranging an all-night party on this date too - details later.

Sunday, September 24th - Conference on Peace Militancy. How to develop local peace action. The actual mobilization will consist of:- Specific marches from radial points around the country converging on London. Those from Scotland and the far West Country will need to begin some weeks prior to the actual date. Perhaps the nucleus of these can be a large coach party which will march, demonstrate and leaflet through each large town en route. The important point is to gather strength on the way. This project involves a ready response from local peace bodies and a big task of local organization.

A broad-based ad hoc committee embracing the non-aligned peace movement is in process of formation to organize the project; for immediate purposes Douglas Kepper will handle all enquiries at the London Committee of 100 office, 13 Goodwin Street, London, N. 4. (01-272-1239)

Will all peace groups and individual activists indicate as a matter of urgency their willingness to participate. We need a register of addresses which marchers can contact to arrange beds, food, transport, meetings, etc. when in transit.

The Working Group of the London Committee of 100. June 14th, 1967

SAVE STANSTED

The Government is planning to build a new airport at Stansted in Essex. Almost everybody is against the idea. This part of Essex has good agricultural land; it is quiet and peaceful and it is not very accessible from London or any other population centre. Even B.O.A.C. and B.E.A. are against the plan because it means duplicating their services. But the Government are adamant. They have decreed that there is to be an airport at Stansted and nothing else matters.

What is the real reason behind the decision? In the White Paper that publishes the evidence of the official enquiry an army brigadier gave evidence to the effect that the Isle of Sheppey was ruled out because it was used by the military (or at least its neighbouring air-space was) because there were two missile and artillery ranges in the vicinity - at Shoeburyness and Foulness. Hwere we have it - the Army decides.

Since then we have been told that the reason why a possible site in Northants was turned down was because £80 million has just been spent on bomber bases in the vicinity. Again the military decides !

The campaign to save Stansted will be the stronger and better if we know just what we are up against. One-third of our taxable substance goes to the three armed services. It is the military that decides how we shall live our lives. If the Government get away with Stansted the totalitarian state will be one step nearer.

It may be that we need another airport (although this is questionable). If we do, it certainly should not be at Stansted - or, for that matter, on Sheppey or in Northants; the best place is either Shoeburyness or Foulness. Here, it will interfere with nobody except the army. It is on a good electric train service to London and the noise will be wafted out to sea.

One thing the people who are campaigning to save Stansted must realize - they will never do it by conventional methods alone, i.e. petitions, public meetings, letters to M.P.s, etc. Harold Wilson will treat all this with contempt. The only effective method is by non-violent direct action - civil disobedience against the warfare state. This is the only real answer.

THE CHINESE AND THE H-BOMB

On Saturday, June 17th, the Chinese Government tested its first H-bomb. The National Secretary of the Committee of 100, Peter Cadogan, and Douglas Kepper, (London Secretary), issued the following joint statement:-

"War and war preparations are aspects of each other. The Chinese testing of an H-bomb is one more step on the road to war. It puts the Chinese Government in the same moral (i.e. immoral) bracket as those governments that have already tested their bombs - the U.S., the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France. None of them has any ground for complaint. We condemn the Chinese tests in the same way as we have condemned all the others - from the point of view of people as distinct from their governments. As usual people will suffer through the power-mania of their masters. The Chinese Government believes that 'political power comes out of the barrel of a gun', and so do all other governments. They camouflage it as 'defence'."

For our own part we are against all bombs. We have made this clear in countless actions in the past and intend to make it equally clear in the future.

"The new developments in China raise the stakes in Vietnam. Vietnam remains the main issue. We remain to securing peace in Vietnam through the withdrawal of all foreign troops. All hands off Vietnam !"

BBC and COMMITTEE OF 100.

On June 19th, BBV Television rang Peter Cadogan and asked him for some background information about the Committee, and in the course of the conversation the subject of the Chinese tests came up, and it transpired that we had not at that time arranged any demonstration. This was made full use of in the programme "24 Hours" to condemn the Committee for being anti-American and not anti-Chinese. This was dishonest as the BBC officials know full well that the Committee of 100 is as much opposed to Chinese or Russian tests as to those of any other country. The Committee of 100 has made its position quite clear on this: we are totally non-aligned, as an organization. Nor are we anti-American. We are anti- the American Government that is carrying out a policy of Genocide in Vietnam - we are not anti- the American people. We have more in common with the American people than we have with our own rulers in this country. And this applies also to both Russia and China; we are anti- the governments of those countries who can spend millions of pounds on war preparations but cannot feed their people properly. We are not anti- the peoples of those countries. We are with the ordinary people of all lands. If and when an effective demonstration can be launched outside the Chinese Charge d'Affairs, the Committee of 100 will not be found wanting. The BBC knows this. What a pity the Corporation is not more interested in all the day-to-day affairs of the Committee, and what a pity they do not publicize our work in a more constructive manner.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM BRITISH UNILATERALISTS TO THE CHINESE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT.

Further to the article overleaf there has now been a joint demonstration at the Chinese Charge D'Affairs in London organised by CND., YCND and London and National Committees of 100. An open letter, signed by large numbers of people was handed in. It read as follow:

"Dear Friends
We write as people who are urging our country to unilaterallyrenounce nuclear weapons. Some of us have been campaigning for this for many years. We are conscious that the continuing arms race will almost inevitably result, sooner or later, in a nuclear catastrophe that will end life as we know it on earth.

"Believeing our world, in spite of all the scars of war and injustice that deface it, to be something worth preserving, we are not prepared to stand aside and let this catastrophe happen.

"We know, as all sane men must surely know, that the only way to prevent the use of nuclear weapons is to abolish them. We are urging our country to abandon these weapons because we believe that the way to achieve disarmament is for countries, individually and unilaterally if necessary, to renounce them. Thus we view with dismay the recent test of a hydrogen bomb by your country and your announcement that you intend to develop and increase your nuclear armaments.

"Frineds, we find this an occasion not for public rejoicing but for sorrow. We sincerely believe that if you wish to help to bring peace to this troubled world, you cannot do it by following the other 'major powers' in developing nuclear weapons. We are confident that the only way to peace in this age is to renounce violence; to persuade combatants such as those in the tragic Vietnamese conflict to talk and not to fight; to work to end poverty and hunger; and to help create international friendship and trust."

WHERE WAS HAROLD?

Whenever people demonstrate against the Vietnamese war in the presence of Harold Wilson, he always shouts at them: "When you hold a demonstration outside the Chinese Embassy, I'll demonstrate with you." The fact that the Prime Minister of Britain doesn't even know that there is no Chinese Embassy in Britain can be forgiven. What we want to know is, where was Harold when the demonstration took place against Chinese tests on July 8th? We didn't see him there demonstrating. Where were you, Harold?

BRIGHTON DEFENCE FUND.
Money is urgently needed to pay the costs of the Brighton Church Appeal. Also, to help the families of those inprisoned. Send your donation NOW to Jean Smythe, Committee of 100 Welfare Group, c/o, 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4.

ESTRIN - CHANDLER DEFENCE. Money is also urgently needed to pay the costs of the cases of Melvyn Estrin and Terry Chandler, due to appear at the Old Bailey on the "Dollars" charge. Send your donation to this fund, please, also to the above address.

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the middle east

After the last issue of our magazine appeared war actually broke out in the Middle East between Israel and the Arab countries. It has also ended - for the time being - with a victory for Israel. Not only this but the Israeli Government has extended its territory to take in the whole of the city of Jerusalem.

We do not condone the actions of the governments of Egypt or of any of the other arab countries. They are capitalist governments - many of them of the worst possible kind. They have also threatened the extermination of Israel and we cannot condone that sort of talk. But if the Government of Israel have achieved anything at all, it is to make sure that the arabs will try to carry out that threat, however long they have to wait to do so. What is more, the Israeli Government are storing up a load of trouble, not only for themselves, but for Jewish people throughout the world.

The three main political parties in Britain, and most of the British press, has been solidly on the side of Israel. One would not have imagined, during the last few weeks that the arabs had a case at all. But they have got a case. Thousands of people have been made homeless as a result of the setting - up of the state of Israel. In Israel itself, arabs are treated as second - class citizens. There are thousands of refugees living under appalling conditions. The fact that the arab rulers have helped deliberately to perpetuate the refugee problem does not excuse the Israeli Government. The arabs have got a case and it is time the world recognised this fact.

It is true that six million Jews were muredered in German concentration camps but the arabs were not responsible for this and in any case, the Israeli's, having themselves suffered, ought to show more charity.

There is a solution to the Middle East problem. It is for the state of Israel to cease being a separate state as such and to become once again part of Palestine. It is also important that the arabs should give up their warlike attitude. It is even more important for America and Britain, on the one hand, to stop bolstering up Israel and for Russia and China, on the other hand, to stop bolstering up the arab countries. Both the Western and the Eastern regimes are making their own bids for political and economic control in the Middle East.

The most important thing, however, is for the ordinary people of Israel and the ordinary people of the arab countries to get together - to dissassociate themselves from their respective rulers and to work together for a peaceful future. The common people of all the countries in the Middle East have more in common with one another than they have with their respective ruling classes and certainly more than they have with either the western powers or the eastern powers.

ACTION STUDY GROUP.

Over two years ago, the Committee of 100 formed a Middle East study group, which met regularly and had as its aim trying to get arabs and Israeli's together to discuss their differences and to try and reach an agreement. It was to be an action study group, and although attendances have been small, the group has had some minor successes. The group has been meeting during the middle east crisis and it is significan that the organisers, and most of those attending the meetings, are Jewish people, all anxious to bring about a better understanding between Jew and non - Jew. This is the sort of work that can eventually help to bring about peace to the peoples of all lands.

DOUGLAS KEPPER.

EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP

Many of you will have heard of the Edgware Project but not know much about it; why it took place; what built up to it; and what followed from it? People must have many unanswered questions.

To start at the beginning: the Edgware Project, which was held in February and March 1967 sprung from an idea put up by the London Committee of 100, that in Edgware, the local YCND group should be mobilized, together with other peace groups, including national organizations such as YCND, CND, Campaign Caravan Workshops, and the Committee of 100. The local YCND group had been functioning for just over a year at this stage. It had been started by three people who were very keen to see a peace group start up in the area and playing an active role in local affairs and the social life of the community. At the start of the Edgware Project there were about 60 people on the mailing list of the YCND group, many of them not active but names that we had picked up from various lists which we had obtained, and of people who had shown slight interest.

What took place during the Edgware Project? One month of concentrated activity, including intensified selling of peace literature, leafleting and canvassing, also a film show, folk song concert, public meeting and two people being arrested (Doug Kepper and Dave Boughton) at Edgware Station. This resulted in headlines in the local paper, which kept up for most of the project. There was intensive leafleting at five local schools, the response being overwhelming.

From leafleting five schools we managed to set up twelve school groups, all working efficiently. The "gospel" had been spread. The local YCND group was increased (on paper) to about 200.

A few weeks after the project the YCND group changed its name to EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP. By this time the school groups had been increased to 18 in number. Some were prettty useless (these we would concentrate on), some were very efficient. Those that were efficient held meetings in their schools; sold Sanity, Peace News, and many other peace pamphlets - arranged their own activities, sold badges, and even had Sanity and Peace News in their school libraries!!!! Those that were not so successful just sold badges mainly those with the words, "Make Love, not War"!!

SCHOOL GROUPS

Some groups were banned in schools, badges were confiscated, as were papers and mamphlets, boys and girls were threatened with expulsion and there were reports to parents, and suppression of individual freedom of thought and

expression. Reporters on the local paper took a great interest in all that happened. When leafleting local schools we were often told to "go away or else----"! The "or else" was often the police but they were unable to stop us. At the North London Collegiate School for Girls, the Bursar, who just happened to be an ex-Royal Navy Commander, told us to stop leafleting the girls or else he would be forced to call the police. When told that the police could do nothing he told each girl to refuse to take our leaflets; when this did not work he closed the main gate and made the girls leave by a different exit. We just went to the other exit and carried on leafleting; after this he seemed to give up, but meanwhile, when the girls heard that they were not meant to take our "terrible" leaflets they took even more.

SUPPRESSION

Groups that were suppressed went underground and often they flourished and became very active, with lots of real activists. Haberdasher Aske's School was one of these. They had four cadet forces (army, navy, air force and police) but the peace group was not allowed. Activity and interest flourished underground and from this group came one of our group Secretaries, Paul Marks. Now he is a disillusioned Chairman of the Group. Also out of this group came David Mond, who introduced his sister and both of them are school secretaries and both of them are very active.

We had various petitions put out about mainly local problems, such as closed council meetings, race relat ons, etc. Also, a survey of the local area was conducted, an attempt was made to discover the local population's feelings about the causes for which we strive; surprisingly, the result was much better than we thought it would be. By going to people's homes, and talking to them about problems that face us we found that their views often coincided with ours. We maintain that one of the best ways to canvass is to do a long term leafleting of the area chosen and then follow it up by giving away free copies of Peace News or Resistance. This is followed by "the chat" and one must know one's stuff; it's no good not knowing what you're talking about!!!!

There were also various visits to old people's homes. Groups of people went armed with copies of Sanity and Peace News. To get a group functioning as the Edgware Group functioned took a lot of hard work and this usually fell on to the shoulders of a few people. I believe the Edgware Peace Action Group was the first of the peace action groups and I hope it won't be the last. The work that they do is a very important part of peace work.

WAKE UP, EDGWARE!

Regrettably, the Edgware Group is going downhill. This is largely because the various Chairman and Secretaries lose their enthusiasm and give up. This is due largely to overwork, because not enough people pull their weight. How about it, Edgware?

Melvyn Estrin

PORTON

as ITV saw it

There are 160 known diseases that can be used in Warfare to which there are no known preventive vaccines and no known course of treatment. This was one of the most horrifying of a host of grim facts about chemical and biological warfare revealed in one of the ITV's "The World tomorrow" series.

There is also a certainty that development of CBW - chemical and biological warfare weapons is continuing under the guise of atomic warfare research.

Among those gravely concerned by this are the leading Scientists all over the world who believe that the secrecy that surrounds CBW research should be dropped, and, in the interests of international peace, that the whole subject should be brought out into the open.

The ITV team was granted the unique distinction of being able to take pictures in the Chemical Experimental Establishmentat Porton, to interview its its Director, Dr Eric Haddon, and to interview Dr. Gordon Smith, Director of the neighbouring Microbiological Research Establishment.

Dr Haddon told ITV - "We think that the threat of Chemical weapons is very real: The agents that could be used are highly toxic; many of them are odourless, tasteless and colourless

"They could be dispersed from all the conventional weapons and, of course, it is our work to assess this threat; not forgetting of ourse, the World War One agent, Mustard as.

"But as regards the nerve agents they are very lethal. they vary in their physical properties from some hing ofthe volatility of pertrol, to the other end of the ecale, the volatility of lubricating oil, and we envisage them being used accordingly."

It was explained by Dr. Bernard Saunders, inventor in 1940 of Britain's first nerve gas, that the action of the newer defence gases was to knowck out the central nervous system, to paralyse the muscles of the lungs so that breathing became impossible, thus cutting off the supply of oxygen to the brain. After exposure to a concentration death could collow wirhin only three to four minutes.

Ptotection, however, had been devised. First there was a portable alarm system which could warn of the presence of any of these gases; there is also protective outwear - which will be issued to the service by 1970, and, for immediate action in the event of nervegas attack, a self-injection kit- a spring-loaded syringe which releases a dose of atropine, the best known antidote.

ONLY FOR DEFENCE

ON the subject of biological warfare, Dr. Gordon Smith told viewer that: "The British Government has not the requirements to use biological warfare offensively, so that there is no attempt in this country to produce a stockpile of biological weapons. The role of MRE is to assess the risk to the people of this country of attack by biological weapons, and to try and find ways to defend them against it

Everyone who has considered how a biological war attack could be made has concluded that the most likely thing is a wind-borne cloud of organisms which would be inhaled by the victims.

Now it is unlikely that organisms would be used against which a high proportion of our population already had immunity. For instance Influenza or Smallpox, and so one looks for agents which cause epidemics by the airborne route in other parts of the world, such as Plague, Tularemia, Q-Fever and other infections of this sort."

Commenting that there are 160 known diseases which are resistant to all known vaccines, the commentator suggested that the MRE was probablyprobably concentrating on the following:-

PLAGUE, whose symptoms are high fever and vomiting for which there is a vaccine effective for only one year and an antibotic antidote, but which, untreated, would probably cause death.

Q-FEVER which is unlikely to kill but which causes lasting weakness, for which there is a vaccine and an antibiotic

ANTHRAX which causes difficulty in breathing and possibly death if not treated, and for which a vaccine has been prepared

TULEREMIA causing drenching sweats and painful inflammation, which is sometimes fatal, has a two-year only effective vaccine and antidpte.

MELLOIDOSIS of which the symptoms are acute diarrhoea, high fever and delirium, which is 90% fatal, and

BOTULISM "The most potent poison known" of which rapid exhaustion is the first sign. There is a short supply of vaccine, treatment is very difficult and the disease almost invariably kills.

U.S. SCIENTISTS' VIEWS.

Switching to CBW development overseas, the camera visited Fort Detrick, the U.S. equivalent of Porton, while it was commented that 22 U.S. Scientists had recently petitioned President Johnson for a firm declaration that America would not initiate the use of CBW weapons.

Similar research, under strictest secrecy was also being carried out at Pennsylvania University, the New York University and elsewhere. At New York, the programme was costing nine million dollars a year

Dr Matt Mesleson, Professor of Biology at Harvard, was concerned at the current use in Vietnam by U.S. forces of tear and defoliation gases spraying of which kills off all vegetation. Though neither was fatal to man, he stated, there was every risk that using such agents could repeat the historical gas warfare of World War One.

CBW weapons said Dr. Mesleson, could be anti-population weapons because of the very great areas that could be affected by them. And they are weapons which could potentially be very cheap. So cheap possibly as to make mass destructive capability available to very small irresponsible nation and even to private individuals or groups.

Turning to Russia the commentator declared that "America's Military Advisers estimate that a sixth of the munitions held by Russian armies facing Western Europe are loaded with chemical agents. Ameriva's budget for chemical and biological research shows a five-fold increase between 1959 and 1964.

"Russia's defence budget shows a similar increase, and scientists from both sides are growing apprehensive."

The answer to the problem, suggested the commentator, was international disclosure of CBW secrets and inspection of research plants and an agreement to control CBW weapon manufacture, if not to remove the threat of such war completely by a total ban.

Nowhere in this programme, it must be emphasized, was there mention of how gases or bacterial strains were developed or how vaccines or antibiotics were discovered or how any research work was undertaken. This according to a reliable source was deliberate.

The Ministry of Defence was most anxious not to excite Antivivisectionists

(Reprinted from the "Anti-Vivisectionist", monthly paper of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection. (February issue.) Published with due acknowledgements.)

PORTON UNDER CANVAS.

Following the demonstration at Porton Germ and Chemical Warfare Establishment on May I4th,A small group of individuals decided that further action was needed to draw the attention of the people to the true facts about Porton. As a result,three people returned there on the I6th of June to camp near the gates of Allington Farm throughout the week-end,with the intention of observing and studying the Establishment and also to find out anything interesting from the local inhabitants.

The three people involved were Linda Dancy,Mike Dukes (Southampton Peace Action Group)and Mick Summers;their story is as follows:

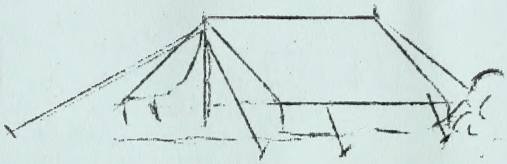
Whilst hitching down from London to Porton,Linda and Mick were given a lift by an officer based near Porton Down who is serving in a signals division. After an interesting conversation with him,he drove them around the Nuclear Ground Defence School at Winterbourne Gunner and then back for coffee at his Quarters.During their talk with him,they told him of their intentions and their reasons for doing so;he then tried to convince them that the number of animals used in the experiments there were grossly exaggerated and the true purpose of the experiments were distorted.They argued on this subject,stating that their facts were genuine and came from reliable sources.

The number of animals used in I959 were 95,995 and in I964,I60,000; So roughly speaking, I90,000 animals were experimented on in I966.

The Officer continued by saying that Porton was a Research Establishment for combating Chemicals and Germs and not an Establishment with the purpose of producing these vile weapons.He then said that Human Guinea pigs were used for testing the effectivness of gas masks against a nerve gas attack, but only tear gas was used in these tests and admitted the masks were'nt I00% safe against other gasses.

DIRTY WORK

The following evening they pitched their tents near the main gates of Allington Farm and went to the nearest village which was Newton Toney and went into the only pub there where the publican proved to be quite friendly and sympathetic and told them of certain things he had seen and heard about Porton,one being of cows walking about in the fields owned by the Establishment with their bones protruding to an alarming degree.Another story he told them was that the previous owner of that pub had died of an un-identified disease affecting the nose and the throat 6 months after leaving Porton where he had worked for 9 years. Towards closing time the three young people struck up conversation with a young local inhabitant whose father had also worked in Porton and had developed cancer of the throat.These are two isolated cases discovered whilst talking only to the people in that particular village. Whether these two cases are purely coincidental and have no connection with Porton we cannot say,but it is possible that there are more 'mysterious illnesses' and the people have'nt connected them with Porton



or they may have been hushed up by Government Officials who one way or another help to carry this under-handed dirty work on.

On the Sunday morning,Linda was up at 7.30.a.m. and took up a position by the main gates of Allington Farm with binnoculars and proceeded to watch and take notes of any movements within the 'Farm'.Her notes are as follows:

After watching for about ten minutes I heard a noise that I took to be dogs howling;it was obviously coming from the 'Farm'but which part I could not make out;the peculiar thing about the howling was that it sounded a sort of half whine,half howl,as though their vocal chords had been affected some way,whatever it was causing them to sound as they did,It did'nt sound natural and after a few minutes the noise gradually subsided.
Five minutes later,the main gates to the Farm,which were open,were closed by Security Police who then drove up to where I was sitting and started asking a lot of questions,i.e.,What I was doing there;what was my name,address etc.They also asked if I had a camera.There was particular emphasis on this question;I naturally said 'no I had'nt'but they accepted this answer with an air of doubt. One of them said he was going to escort me to the main road to which I would not agree,but as I was sitting on W.D. Property I agreed to move down the road to where I would not be trespassing, But they still were'nt satisfied and for 45 minutes they stood watching me. During this time one of them drove off and returned later with the civil Police from Salisbury who began questioning me and took a lot of trouble taking my description. The Security Officer then demanded that they remove me from where I was,but the civil police pointed out to him that I was not on W.D. Property and therefore had no authority to do so.
all this time neither the security nor the civil police had any idea there were two other people asleep in the tents which were pitched in a small copse nearby;therefore it appeared that they went to extreme measures for the sake of one person.
When Mick Summers appeared,he told us that the guard dogs would be along soon. Unfortunately we missed them as we went to the village pub.
About an hour later when we had returned from the village,two Salisbury C.I.D. officers came to find out what we were doing and when we were leaving. They drove off leaving a plain clothes security officer watching us from a civilian car until we eventually left.

There is obviously some really dirty work going on at Porton,or why such stringent measures to keep people out?
People who pay taxes should know just how their money is spent.
This Poison-Producing place should be closed down permanently like all other places of its nature.
If anyone would like to spend a week-end at Porton gathering as much information about it as possible,Please contact Mick Summers, Tel:ARC 1239.
c/o Committee of 100,
13,Goodwin Street,London.N.4.

REBELS & ROMANIES.

Andrew Boswell is a Romany. We met him, quite by accident, in a pub in Leicester just a few yards from the massive Leicester Prison that had walled him in for the last 5½ years. He was surprisingly unbitter.

Nearly six years ago he was 'on the road' as usual and having breakfast round an open fire with his folks when a policeman rode up on a bicycle and told them to get moving immediately.

Romanies get used to this kind of treatment but they don't like it any the more for that. They are proud people. All they asked of this particular policeman was a little time. They would finish their breakfast, pack their things and move on.

But the copper wasn't having any. He kicked the fire out....

That was it. A few minutes later that same policeman, bruised and battered, was in the ditch with his broken bike on top of him.

Andrew Boswell got ten years.

He served 5½ years inside and is now out on parole. In a few months time he will be a free man again and back on the road.

Never having had a formal education he took advantage of his enforced leisure to learn to read and write. Now he is literate in English and Romany (a language with Sanskrit origins) and has written two books on the problems of his people. Now he is looking for a publisher. He painted in oils and did some remarkable model-making. He showed us photographs of his work.

We invited him to our meeting (the National Committee of the Committee of 100 was meeting upstairs in the same pub) and got him to talk about the Romanies.

He had us with him right from the start through his magnificently uninhibited attitude to war. "We are natural internationalists" he said, " and owe no allegiance to any nation state. War is the way of life of tyrants and we won't wear it. We will obey the civil rules of the society we live in, so long as we keep our freedom."

The Army called Andrew Boswell up! What a hope! They had him for two days only and then he was off. They caught him, gave him "the treatment" in the Shepton Mallet glasshouse and then shipped him out to Port Said. The desert had no terror for a Romany. He went on the run again and for four months lived with the Bedouins. Eventually the Army caught up with him and sent him back to England to be discharged as a hopless case .... It can be done!

All the Romanies want, said Andrew, is to be left alone. The only 'good' they want done on their behalf is that they be understood more, not persecuted - and left alone. They don't want to be 'integrated' (they despise the money - grubbing and status - ridden standards of our society) and they don't want to settle. They are on the road because that is their way of life and that is the way they like it.

But they are not against change. They used to have very rigid rules against intermarriage but in recent years these have been relaxed.

There are serious problems about earning a living. Traditionally they are craftsmen - making baskets, pegs, reseating chairs, rivetting pottery and sharpening cutlery. But to-day, with mass-production, these things are out. Something they would have to charge £2 for, their customers can now buy for 10/- in a shop. So now they do things like tar - macaddaming and snow-clearing.

Andrew Boswell went to some pains to get across to us just who and what the Romanies are. It is our ignorance that is the cause of much of the trouble.

There are only about 1000 true Romanies in Britain. Other people, traditionally classified with them, are in fact quite different. There are the Scots Irish tinkers and travellers and the Didykois. These last make up much of the fair-ground fraternity. Some of them settle, more or less permanently, in certain fairground towns.

The three groups, the Romanies and the other two, constitute three different situations. If we mix them up we shall never get the thing sorted out.

Boswell's definition of freedom was better than that of any cloistered don:

"A man is free when he can do what he likes provided he doesn't hurt anyone else. The Romanies are the free-est people in this country and are still not free."

He shook us a bit when he said that "begging is one of the finest games in the world" and instanced the Salvation Army! It occurred to me afterwards that we, in the peace movement, are always begging - only we call it "making appeals"! He may be plumbing some depth we have forgotten or ignored.

For thousands of years the Romanies have challenged power - structures not by political struggle but by sustaining the values and practices of anti-power among themselves. It seems that they may have more to give us than we have to give them.

PETER CADOGAN.

COURT CIRCULAR.

BRIGHTON. Jim Radford and Nicolas Walter lost their Appeal at the Law Courts in the Strand, on July 7th. They have to surrender to the Brighton police on July 17th to begin serving their prison sentence of two months. On Sunday July 16th there will be a public meeting outside Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Brighton, at 12.0 noon, followed by a march round the town. We urge you to turn up and protest at this gross miscarriage of justice. Why were Jim and Nick singled out for this vicious treatment? All the other people who were fined £5 each also appealed and they also lost the appeal.

INDECENCY IN CHURCH. We urge you to read this pamphlet, which gives the full story of the Brighton case. It has now been reprinted, thanks to the generosity of Dick Hobin of Hampstead, and can be obtained, price 6d a copy, from Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N.1., or from the Committee of 100, 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4.(add 3d for postage.)

GENOCIDE SQUARE. 18 people appeared at Marlborough Street Police Court on July 3rd after being arrested at Genocide Square (the new name for Grosvenor Square) on July 2nd. We do not know all those who were arrested but they include: Melvyn Estrin (Obstruction - fined £3) Tommy Farr (alleged assault - case adjourned until July 10th) Leonard John Payne (insulting behaviour and affixing a poster - case adjourned until July 17th) Hilary Little (assault and obstruction - case adjourned until July 11th) and Terry Liddle (assault and obstruction) who appeared on July 7th and was fined £2.10.0 and sent to prison for one month. Wilfred Wigham, a former General Secretary of the ILP and former Editor of the Socialist Leader, gave evidence for Terry. Wilfred, one of the most respected people in the Movement, was beside Terry in Grosvenor Square and he did not see any assault take place. Somebody else was arrested and Terry and his girl friend, Hilary Little, standing immediately behind, lost their footing and slipped and were arrested straight away. The magistrate was not in the least bit interested in what witnesses had to say and hardly listened to them. Terry Liddle, a member of Lee and Lewisham Anarchists, has been subjected to a gross miscarriage of justice. The number of letters that he can receive are limited but he can receive greetings cards. Send them to Y10797, Terry Liddle, H.M.Prison, Du Cane Road, Wormwood Scrubs. W.12.

SIMON COMMUNITY. The Simon Community is a Christian organisation that does voluntary work amongst social misfits, particularly meths drinkers. They opened a shelter for these people at Sclater Street in Stepney. A disused house was taken over, painted and ecorated and repaired and meths drinkers were invited in from the local bomb sites and derelict buildings for shelter, and, if they needed it, help. Tower Hamlets Council, goaded on by local tenats and residents associations, who are guilty of ignorance and fear, prosecuted the Community. They were charged, on July 7th, at Shoreditch County Court, with overcrowding, not having planning permission and having a dangerous structure. To their surprise they won their case. The Magistrate gave them permission to have 12 people there at a time and since they had only had ten previously this was a victory indeed.

The Council may, of course, appeal, but this is still a great victory against bureaucracy, ignorance and prejudice.